



Volume 23

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

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*Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ*

## Crest Tower Trailer Training

By Joe Bennett – W6VMX

Went up to Crest on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, a Sunday, to observe the latest Tower Trailer training that was to be presented by Dave Ward (KI6GRN). Arrived a little early and had a chance to visit with Pat (WA6MHZ) for awhile before others began to arrive. Jack (N6FUG) and I had a nice tour of the East Wing of the Crest Radio Museum. In total, there were seven of us there for the training session. Three were from RACES (Rusty Sargent, Dave Sutherland, and his son Austin Sutherland), to get qualified for use of the Tower Trailer during the upcoming Baker to Vegas run. They planned on using the trailer at the start line to establish a long range link to the next relay sites. A Diamond x50a vertical antenna will be placed atop the tower to hopefully make for a solid and reliable contact base. When all had shown up Dave moved the system farther out into Pats driveway to allow for the proper deployment of the outriggers. Once this had been done, Dave did a full walk around to show all of the features and functions of the system to the trainees. Then, under Dave's direction, they began the deployment process, following each step as it was explained and shown to them. In a matter of minutes, the tower was fully extended and ready to operate (minus antenna, coax,



etc.). After staring in wonder at a 100' tower fully deployed, they began the process of bringing it back down, re-stowing its various components, and readying it for towing just as you would in the field.

### ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 220.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2







Dave did a great job of showing and supervising the trainees all of the various aspects needed to successfully deploy the system, safely and properly, and how to re-stow it in a very timely manner. Once done, Dave had the trainees proceed on their own to again deploy the system while he closely observed their actions. They again successfully deployed the system without any problems or safety issues. The system was then brought down again, re-stowed, and made road worthy by the trainees. I can say that my observation of the training was very informative to me, and while I was not “hands on” I do feel that I was able to obtain a very good working knowledge of the system. After backing the system back into its proper storage location and a bit more discussion amongst the 7 of us, Dave Ward, Jack Moran and I said farewell to the RACES trainees and left Crest in the capable hands of Pat and his cats. We are all looking forward to an after action report on how the Baker to Vegas run went, and how the Tower Trailer performed too.

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## Tower Trailer Deployment Presentation

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

This month's presentation was on the deployment of the ARCEC tower trailer Club Vice President Peter Krause KJ6VCM gave the presentation which was well received by the attending membership. The tower trailer built by Tri-Ex for the US Navy, was donated to the club in 2008 for use at special events and for emergency communications such as the firestorms of 2003 and 2007. The tower came with comprehensive deployment and dismantling instructions, since erecting and taking down a one hundred foot tall tower is not a casual task. The presentation stressed safety, and proper placement of the tower trailer. Besides the logistics of raising and lowering the tower, towing and other requirements were discussed in great detail. Peter put on a very good presentation, one that satisfied the curiosity of many who have seen that familiar landmark at local amateur radio events.

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## Next Month's Meeting

Dave Goodwin WB4LCN will be giving a presentation on a remotely operated Go Kit. Being remotely accessible adds another new dimension to deployable emergency equipment. Such Go Kits are a natural adjunct to deployable mesh networks such as Ham Net.. Looking forward to seeing you there.

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## Club Happenings

ARCEC members will be working with the Boy Scouts on Saturday March 29, 2014. Scouts will be earning their Radio Merit Badge. Boy Scouts will be communicating over our 2 Meter repeater as their party traffic using our club call, ARCEC members will be on site and, other members are encouraged to participate in this event by communicating with the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts will be on the air from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM, so join in and help them with earning their merit badge.

ARCEC is also beginning promoting Field Day 2014. The event is well into the planning stages, and we are looking for operators to staff the Field Day site, night time operators are needed and most of all CW ops are needed.

The San Diego Six Shooters are holding an operating day event at Fry's Electronics 9825 Stonecrest Blvd in San Diego on April 26, 2014. ARCEC is one of the invited radio clubs and we are hoping for a large member turnout. The Operating Day Event is an event to show the general public what amateur radio is all about. Last year's sported a diverse array of mobile and portable stations operating from HF through UHF and all modes. Show your support for the hobby and our club, better yet bring someone who has not been exposed to amateur radio. The event begins at 9:00 AM and concludes at 5:30 PM, hope to see you there.

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## Editor's Notes

Spring is here as our masthead indicates. For those who may be interested the picture in our masthead was cropped from a collection of pictures I took in 2007. There is a large flower box in my roommate's front yard with a couple of Yucca trees and a mixture of flowers and small succulents. In 2007 with my roommate's permission her tenet who lives in the back house replanted the flower box, and for three weeks in the spring it was a sight to behold. Over those three weeks the flowers in the front became the subject of over 400 photos, 170 of which were the cream of the crop.

What spring means to us Hams is also a rebirth of sorts. VHF becomes alive with all manner of propagation modes. For those of us on the low bands the transequatorial path is more easily realized. For me there is a brief window where the man made noise level drops a little just before the static crashes become more frequent on 75 Meters. Many of us are beginning to think of Field Day, others are thinking of the Dayton Hamvention. Soon people will be taking vacations and some will take their radios with them. A member of the rag chew group I belong to leaves his radio at home and will join us by way of his I-Pad from some KOA campground. Last Spring a member of our group took his military backpack radio on a hike up a 10,000 foot mountain in the Sierra. This hobby like many but more so than others is a very seasonal hobby.

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2014 is shaping up to be a good year for ARCEC, we have been seeing new members joining our ranks and the return of old members. It is good to see new faces and here those words "I am a new member" just as good to hear of those who are returning after an absence. It is reassuring to see evidence the hobby is not dying. People actually getting out and meeting people of like interest seems to bucks the trend we are experiencing with people becoming so wrapped up in their computing appliances that groups can be seen at a restaurant texting each other, instead of talking to each other. I'm the last person on the planet to condemn computers and the Internet, I have owned a computer since 1988, and been on



BBSs and the Internet since 1990. My roommate and I are dedicated gamers and have been so for 18 years. With all that in mind, there is nothing like sitting down and communicating with someone fact to face. So much more information is exchanged on both a verbal and nonverbal level. We can talk about our hobby in Internet forums like QRZ of E-Ham, but even when we have such a solid base to work from as our hobby, it's just not the same as seeing the joy in someone's eyes when they tell you about that station they worked or that project they finished. So the next time you go to Facebook to post the news about your family or your life remember you already belong to the oldest world wide social network, that being amateur radio. \*\*\*\*\*

If you have something you would like to see in Counterpoise send that content to [counterpoise@wa6bgs.us](mailto:counterpoise@wa6bgs.us) You are what makes the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, we wouldn't exist without you the membership. Join us at our meetings and activities and become a part of the club.

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## Club Shirts & Jackets

We have 2013 club shirts and jackets available at meetings and from the club website. Shirts are available sizes from small to XX large, this year's shirt has a pocket and as usual is green in color with the club logo in white. The cost is \$12.00 each. You can get a 2013 Field Day shirt or the standard club shirt, both styles of shirts have the club logo on the back and the left side.

Jackets are also available in sizes ranging from Medium to XX large. These are of the lined windbreaker style, with side pockets and they snap down the front. The cost is \$24.00 each.

We also have a number of shirts from 2012, these shirts are identical to the 2013 shirts without the pocket, and they are available in both the standard club shirt and the 2012 Field Day shirt. Sizes are limited to stock on hand. For more information regarding our club shirts see; <http://wa6bgs.us/2013-club-shirts-and-jackets/>



Early bird registration has begun for the 2014 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention to be held September 12-14 at the Four Points By Sheraton. For more information visit; <http://www.sandarc.net/>

